



Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats
Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON RESPONDS TO PRESIDENT'S 2006 BUDGET: THE REQUEST FAILS TO MAKE AMERICA SECURE AT HOME

Washington, DC — Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee, issued the following statement on the release of the President's fiscal year 2006 budget request:

“When it comes to protecting America, the President's budget will not get the job done. President Bush's budget fails in three areas critical to protecting the homeland:

The President fails to protect passenger planes from the threat of terrorist attack. Today, cargo that goes under our seats on commercial aircraft is not screened for explosives. The Bush budget proposes no new funds to close this security gap.

The President fails to provide the equipment necessary to make sure that America is safe from nuclear terrorism. The budget is nearly \$100 million short of what is needed to screen for weapons of mass destruction at our ports and borders.

The President fails to protect the brave men and women who are the first to respond to a terrorist attack. The budget cuts programs for police, firefighters, and paramedics by more than 10%, or \$240 million. The President does not even dedicate grant funds to ensure these heroes have the communications tools necessary to talk to one another at a disaster site.

It is clear that President Bush's attention is on the other side of the world, not here at home. The budget is full of misplaced priorities. It places America at risk.”
